

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM - KY-FD-IM-S-03-08

TO: Food Service Directors/Administrators

FROM: Pat Cassetty, Director
Division of Food Distribution

DATE: March 28, 2003

SUBJECT: Changes in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable and Farm-to-School Programs

A meeting was recently held with the Department of Defense (DOD), Division of Value-Added Horticulture and Aquaculture and Food Distribution concerning ways to improve the Farm-to-School Program. During the meeting several ideas to increase the purchase of locally grown Kentucky products were proposed. A decision was made which we think will provide more schools with an increased variety of products. The Department of Agriculture will request DOD fill all orders with locally grown product when available. All orders will be filled, however this requires produce suppliers to first bid and provide products from local farmers and if the requested product is not available locally then they bid products from other sources. In effect the Farm-to-School Program will be absorbed by the "**Fair Share Program**" (formerly known as the DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program). This allows more schools to support local farmers, and receive produce at it's freshest.

However, as always, some changes will take place. To assist in tracking and evaluating this change, you will report the total value of Kentucky products received each month to Jessica Anderson at the Division of Value-Added Horticulture and Aquaculture. Jessica's email address is Jessicap.Anderson@kyagr.com. To provide this information, you only need to compare the delivery tickets with your DOD Final Buy report.

We have also, included a list of products grown in our State with the harvest times, which we hope will be useful when placing orders for Kentucky grown products. The Division of Horticulture and Aquaculture is in the process of updating their web site to include: Market availability, crop updates, "Best Buy" reports and Frequently Asked Questions. Please check the web site frequently for the most update information. You can access their web site from ours. Please check

Informational Memorandum - KY-FD-IM-S-03-08

March 28, 2003

Page 2

Also when placing your other orders for produce if you request "Locally Grown" you will be supporting local farmers and getting the freshest and best.

With your help we anticipate an improved program with a wider variety of products and ask that you contact us with any questions or concerns you have about this new endeavor.

Attachment

Cc: Jim Mansfield, Director
Division of Horticulture and Aquaculture

Sarah Binkley, PBO Nashville

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